

## Missions, Foreign - 1917

### COLORED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES.

For some time we have had correspondence with graduates of Meharry Medical college and others who have fitted themselves with much sacrifice for work in Africa. We have not had much encouragement from any mission board that the door would easily open to these candidates. The most of them have exhausted their personal means in securing their education. It requires a long time to build a practice in this country and when it is acquired it is not so easy to leave. We have just now before us a letter from a young man with the best of references asking for a place in the field. Our African work needs him. This is a good time for him to go if the means can be found. His heart is in the work, and a long life of usefulness among these needy people would be before him. If the new hospital at Monrovia could soon be realized and a regular system of medical work established in the republic of Liberia it would be the beginning of larger things in our work there. This is a good time to help Bishop Camphor in this enterprise.

### THE NEGRO IN DRAMA JOSEPH MC GAZETTE FEBRUARY 23, 1917

It has taken more than half a century to do it, but at last the task seems to have been accomplished—at least to have been well begun. What task? Why the dramatization of the real life of the real American negro.

We have had the colored race in minstrelsy since the first half of the last century. We were presented that race in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" plays years and years ago. Neither, of course, depicted the negro character, nor negro life. It seemed never to occur to anyone—not even to the educated men and women descended from slavery—that their people's affairs offered an inviting field for the dramatist to go to in search of characters and plots and scenes. And now a writer of the white race has done this—Mr. Ridgely Torrence.

The inspiration for his beginning his work was peculiar. It came from witnessing the production of Irish plays. How rich the world of the drama is in this class of works! Torrence saw that the charm of the Irish stage was in the language and the customs of the people. Immediately he fell to wondering why the colored man, immediately he fell to wondering why the colored man, characteristics—his belief, his aims, his weaknesses—might not lend themselves equally well to serious portrayal upon the stage. He had as a basis for belief in the success of such a project the interest which literary work by Harris Dickson, Harry Stilwell Edwards and Joel Chandler Harris had aroused. So he set to work and recent productions of his plays built around negro life have proved the wisdom of the undertaking.

Minstrelsy heaps ridicule upon the colored men and women of America. The "Uncle Tom" class of production gives an equally distorted view of the race from another angle. The more careful work of the sincere dramatist should serve not only to entertain, but to inspire the negro, whom it is particularly designed to

## A SAD SEA MESSAGE.

### Secretary Jordan Makes Perilous Voyage to Reach Africa

Chased by Submarines and Still at  
Sea Makes Strong Appeal Over the  
Ocean Waves For Torn and Bleed-  
ing Africa. Second Sunday in  
April A Good Time to Answer  
His Prayer

S. S. EGORI," Feby. 6th, '17  
Dr. J. A. Booker,  
Editor "Vanguard,"  
Little Rock, Ark.

Dear Brother and Co-Worker:

Knowing that there are so many ministers and laymen in the State of Arkansas whom I know personally and would like to write to each individually, but since this is hardly practical I wish through you to let this go as a personal letter to every pastor in your State. I love them every one.

In company with Rev. and Mrs. D. R. Horton, Mrs. E. B. Sykes, M. D., I have travelled more than 7,000 miles to reach West Africa and haven't reached it yet.

Will mail this letter as soon as we reach Dakar Senegal where we stop a day or so. Because of War conditions ships do not sail regularly now so when we arrived in Liverpool we were told that Rev. and Mrs. Payne were also still in England; however we did not see them. We all were to sail Jan. 24th for our African Fields. This party of four, sailed from Liverpool Thursday Jan. 25th and on Friday morning the Captain of our ship got the following wireless message: "Being chased by German Submarine. A little later: "Being shelled ship sinking and we are taking

to our life-boats." At one time in a dying condition: She there- we were within 25 miles of shore, was unable to do him any submarine. Of course the pas-good, so he died. The next sengers did not know this until morning, Friday, after a very next day, when by shifting our impressive service at which I course we evaded the death-officiated, his body was com- dealing monster. We breathedmitted to the deep sea. We learn- a prayer of Thanksgiving anded afterward that he was not now we think we are out of their a Christian which fact made range. the occasion very sad indeed.

Many of you helped us off by War conditions may become prayers and gifts, but O, so such as to keep me out here many did not: did not think of longer than I had planned: will our Lord's last command in con- however, return when I can.

Yours in His Service,  
L. G. Jordan, Sec'y.

us going in your stead. I know you must feel sad and perhaps ashamed; if so, tell our Father, humbly confessing to Him and send an offering to the Foreign Mission Board 701 S. 19th St., Phila., Pa., and help us push the work of the Kingdom.

Dr. Robinson, our Chairman, is Pastor of a large church and far from being well, and I am not there to go up and down the country as I have done for 21 years, pleading for our workers in Africa, South America, and the West Indies, so I know you can see the great importance of every Missionary Baptist doing his whole duty, that our work go forward.

You who helped, we want to thank you in the name of Jesus and now, as in the past don't forget the work. A little every week by a Missionary Committee, or as you think best, but reported by the 1st of every month will do the work, and be according to the Bible as well. Sympathy for Africa's neglected millions is enough to prompt you to action but your grateful love to Jesus as your personal Saviour should move you to sympathize with Him in His Gift of Himself for us and the African as well, and make you His Co-Worker in this great enterprise.

Last Thursday night Dr. Sykes was called to render medical aid to one of the Kroomen on board ship. He was a native African, fireman on the ship and